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# Childhood

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# Kourtney Mable

## Childhood

Don't mind the six-foot snow slide concussion,  
the wasp-stung eyebrow,  
the week-long pirate eye patch.  
Have some hot orange, not chocolate;  
lick watermelon lipstick,  
learn macramé in Alexandria Bay,  
fall asleep trundled under older sister.

Don't need a Skip-It, a Stretch Armstrong,  
just smile at scotch-tape bandaids,  
shopping bag kite,  
shriveled brown seahorse on a sandy porch.  
Lunch on plastic trays with pictures  
of Dutch children and  
a dip compartment,  
butter bread with honey.  
Hide inside the dead-branch pine,  
dare you to shimmy up the wrist-thick limbs.  
Plant the potato pieces,  
one eye each,  
heel-to-toe three times in the dirt row.